

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE KENNEBEC VALLEY

WHEREAS, the provision of quality, affordable, and accessible higher education in the Kennebec Valley is important to the economic development of this region; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on all those responsible for higher education in Maine to prevent unnecessary duplication of services; and

WHEREAS, the Kennebec Valley has two institutions of higher education that serve its communities; and

WHEREAS, a forum for communication and coordination about higher education opportunity options for the Kennebec Valley will help achieve the goals of access, affordability, and quality:

NOW, THEREFORE, I John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish The Task Force to Plan for Higher Education in the Kennebec Valley as follows:

1. Membership

The Task Force is composed of 10 members:

- a) Two members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, appointed by that board;
- b) A designee of the Chancellor of the University of Maine System;
- c) The President of the University of Southern Maine;
- d) The Interim President of the University of Maine at Augusta;
- e) The President of Kennebec Valley Community College;
- f) The Commissioner of Education; and
- g) Appointed by the Governor:
 - 1) A member of the faculty at the University of Maine at Augusta;
 - 2) A member of the Augusta business community; and
 - 3) A member of the Augusta city council.

The co-chairs of the Task Force are the Commissioner of Education and, as selected by the Task Force, one of the members appointed under 1. a) above. The chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and the Director of State Planning serve ex officio.

2. **Duties**

The Task Force shall recommend to the Governor and the University of Maine System a plan for achieving quality, affordable, accessible higher education in the Kennebec Valley. The first duties of the Task Force members are to determine:

- a) The questions about higher education in the Kennebec Valley they wish to answer to aid in developing the plan;
- b) If they want to use the services of a facilitator;
- c) What information-gathering or studies they want to undertake; and
- d) What resources are available to support their work.

3. **Procedures**

The Task Force shall meet at times and places called by the co-chairs. Under the direction of the Director of State Planning, the State Planning Office shall provide staffing assistance, with assistance from the Department of Education and the University of Maine System as deemed necessary. The costs for implementing the duties included in this Executive Order shall be absorbed by the participating agencies. The members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation.

4. **Report**

The Task Force shall submit a final report no later than December 1, 2005. Upon submission of the final report, the Task Force and the authority of this Executive Order shall dissolve.

5. **Effective Date**

The effective date of this Executive Order is April 20, 2005.

John E. Baldacci, Governor